

Constraints of the Monthly Civilian Labor Force and Nonfarm Employment Estimates:

The civilian labor force estimates are derived by a monthly survey of approximately 750 **households** throughout Louisiana following the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The US Census Bureau conducts the survey by calling randomly selected households and providing BLS with survey results. Households are asked for the number of residents who are sixteen and over and whether they were working or actively looking for work during the week of the twelfth of the month. Responses to these questions become part of the formula to determine the number of people employed and the number of individuals unemployed for the state, MSAs, and each parish every month.

The nonfarm employment estimates are derived from responses received from the monthly BLS survey of 2,757 **businesses** across the state surveyed directly by this agency, and an additional 2,500 businesses that respond directly to BLS with their employment data. Responses capture employment activity during the twelfth of each month. This survey relies on responses from these businesses to produce industry employment levels for the state and all metropolitan statistical areas.

Both data sets are comparable with estimates for the U.S., all 50 states, and 270 metropolitan areas across the U.S.